"the little paper"

#### Timely Tidbits ...

#### **RHS** Celebrates **Homecoming Week**

Romulus High School's annual Homecoming Week celebration is set for September 27 through October 2. For further information about spirit activities, the Homecoming parade and game, and the annual dance, please see the story and community spirit ads on pages 8 and 9.

#### **Public Hearing on School Elections**

On Monday, September 27, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education will hold a public hearing on the subject of establishing future school elec-

Beginning in 2005, due to a change in state law, school districts will no longer have the option of holding their Board elections in the month of June.

For further details, please see the public notice on page 12.

#### Wrestling Club Seeks **New Members**

The Romulus Wrestling Club will begin its new season on Friday, October 15. The club - open to boys and girls ages 6 to adult will practice in Romulus High School's wrestling room (located upstairs across from the gymnasium) from 6 to 8 p.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

T-shirt, shorts, and wrestling shoes are required gear.

"We are getting ready for another season of tournament wrestling," said coach Jeff Kelsey. "Every wrestler who practices and registers will wrestle in tournaments throughout the state."

Kelsey said he's very excited about the team's prospects this

"Last year, our team produced two national champs, one national placer, one state champ, two state placers, and one 'iron man' champion, along with district and regional qualifiers," he explained.

Questions may be directed to Kelsev at 734-942-6965.

# **Charles Miller Resigns; Romulus City Council To Choose His Replacement**



By Kristi Stephens Romulus City Council members could choose a replacement for former colleague Charles Miller as early as Monday, September 27.

Miller, who submitted a letter of resignation to City Clerk Linda Choate prior to the Council's September 13 meeting, had walked out of a study session on the City's water shut-off policy earlier that evening.

Miller's frustration with what he sees as the City's failure to help handicapped residents, as well as others facing unexpected financial difficulties, apparently precipitated a decision that he had been contemplating for some time. In fact, the resignation letter submitted by Miller was originally dated for November 2003.

"In most cases, a citizen would be honored with the opportunity to serve as a councilman in the community in which he lived," Miller wrote in a recent letter to the editor, which appears on page 2 of this issue. "In this case, however, I found it impossible to work for the welfare of the community when the environment in which I worked was wrought with deal-making, special interests, and a generally unsympathetic attitude toward the needs of those we are elected to serve."

Miller told The Romulus News that his decision was not an easy one.

"I was deeply honored by the support I received from Romulus voters in 2001, and I took my responsibility to them very seriously," he said.

Miller's resignation seemed to surprise and even disconcert many of the City's elected officials.

"Unless he had some really strong personal reason for resigning, I wish he would have completed his term," said Councilman Bill Wadsworth. "The people of the City of Romulus put their trust in him when they elected him."

A statement issued by Mayor Alan R. Lambert noted, "I am very disappointed to hear that Mr. Miller quit the city council seat to which he was elected by the people. My administration stands on our achievements and will continue to work with the other elected officials in the ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for our residents."

City Clerk Choate wrote to Miller, "I was sorry to receive your letter of resigcontinued on page 4

# **Runway Closures May Modify Air Traffic Patterns**

Construction projects begun by the Wayne County Airport Authority on September 7 will require consecutive closures of two parallel runways at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) until later this year.

"When one of the airport's parallel runways is closed, Federal Air Traffic Control will occasionally use Runway 27L for arrivals, particularly at peak times, to maintain DTW's capacity," said CEO Lester Robinson. "When all runways are available, 27L is usually used only when there are strong winds directly out of the west."

In a press release issued on August 31, Noise Program manager Scott Roberts noted, "When Runway 27L is being used for arrivals, we begin receiving telephone calls and e-mails from people who live in neighborhoods along Eureka Road, east of the airport, in the communities of Romulus, Taylor, Southgate, and even as far away as Wyandotte. They are wondering why that runway,

which runs parallel with Eureka Road, is being used in calm conditions. We wanted to alert everybody well in advance that this is going to happen."

Michael Conway, director of Public Affairs & Environment, said, "Historically, weather conditions necessitate the use of the crosswind runways, 27R and 27L, only 5% of the time. FAA Air Traffic Control assigns aircraft primarily to the four parallel runways for superior capacity. However, when a parallel is closed, under certain conditions, ATC will blend in some arrivals on 27L to maintain flight schedules."

The projects, on two ends of two parallel runways, involve the grading of soil and the construction of "blast pads" to prevent jet blast from creating uneven conditions on the soil off the ends of the runways. Airport spokespersons say that the grading and asphalt blast pads contribute to safer conditions in the unlikely event of an aircraft undershoot or overshoot of a runway. A federal contribution of \$1 million was provided for the project on August 16, when FAA administrator Marion Blakey visited Detroit to grant funding for this and other DTW projects.

"These projects are required by the FAA and are necessary to maintain our continuing compliance with federal airfield safety standards," said Planning & Capital Improvement director Ali Dib.

"While the runways are closed for contractor construction of the blast pads and regrading of the runway safety areas, WCAA Airfield Maintenance crews will take the opportunity to perform routine electrical and pavement maintenance," said maintenance director Joseph Egan. "This reduces the need for future closures, and helps to maintain an efficient airfield.

"The preliminary schedule calls for work to continue into November, but we hope the weather cooperates and the projects are completed well before the Thanksgiving holiday," he added.



### **Hotcakes with His Honor**

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# Judge Brian A. Oakley

and his re-election committee for a pancake breakfast (He's making the pancakes!)

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# Letter to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily shared by the staff of "the little paper."

#### **Resigning Councilman** Says Thanks for Support

To the citizens of Romulus:

In most cases, a citizen would be honored with the opportunity to serve as a councilman in the community in which he lived. In this case, however, I found it impossible to work for the welfare of the community when the environment in which I worked was wrought with dealmaking, special interests, and a generally unsympathetic attitude toward the needs of those we are elected to serve.

My only desire was for change. Little did I know that the change would be a violation of the principles by which I live my life.

The only solution is to move forward and elect people who will actually represent your interests. It is high time that we no longer be satisfied with the status quo and, better still, that we resolve not to reward people for doing a

Voting is your only answer - but, in order to vote for real change, people of character and moral fiber must be willing to run for elected position in our community.

I no longer will be threatened or intimidated. I lead with my heart, and make no apologies for doing so.

In closing, I want to thank my fellow

citizens who believed in me. I truly appreciate your kind words. It was an honor to try and represent you.

> Charles Miller Romulus

#### Citizen Thanks Oakley for "Sign Courtesy"

Dear Editor:

Here we go again. Our street corners and lawns are being blanketed in advertising for politicians. Enough is enough. I realize that candidates need to campaign, but why do they have to put their signs up so early? Some of them have had signs up since May. That's wrong, and I believe we deserve

I want to thank 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley for waiting until after Labor Day to put up his signs. Judge Oakley isn't a politician. He's a public servant and a leader in our community.

It's a shame that other candidates for office refuse to follow his example and put their signs up closer to the election.

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The Romulus News invites individuals and organizations to submit articles that may be of interest to its readers; however, The Romulus News is not responsible for the content of such articles, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. The Romulus News reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publication; however, since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, misspellings and grammar errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of The Romulus News. All letters, commentaries, and other columns must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

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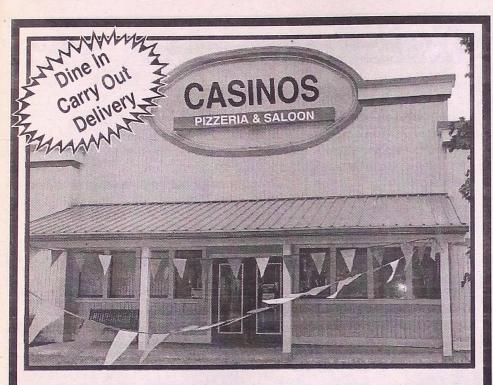
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While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, The Romulus News is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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## **CHS Earns NCA Accreditation**



(From left) Romulus Community High School principal Al Wilkerson proudly displayed his school's NCA Special Purpose School accreditation sign with NCA team co-chairs Karen Powell and Charles TenBroeck.

Dick Kruse, spokesperson for the Romulus Community Schools, reports that Romulus Community High School has been awarded the North Central Association's prestigious Special Purpose School accreditation designation.

CHS—a school of choice that serves students from 15 different communities, with a majority coming from Romulus and Belleville—is one of only five alternative schools in Michigan to achieve this honor.

Principal Al Wilkerson, formerly a counselor at both Romulus High School and Romulus Middle School, was elated to receive the award.

"My NCA team, co-chaired by Karen Powell and Charles TenBroeck, did a great job working with our staff and preparing the necessary documents for our NCA presentation," said Wilkerson, who also complimented his staff for developing and implementing the ideas and programs necessary to meet the NCA requirements.

Wilkerson is very proud of CHS curriculum, which features college-level course offerings.

"Our students receive the opportunity to earn college credits, and many of them use this positive experience to continue their education at the university level," he explained.

Principal Wilkerson is also proud of

the two state alternative school championships won by his flag football and basketball teams.

"Our students really look forward to the regular season and state tournaments in the 60-team Alternative Athletic Association," said Wilkerson, who coached Romulus High School's Eagles basketball team to a Class "A" state championship in 1986.

Wilkerson additionally acknowledged the excellence of the CHS chess and bowling teams, which had near misses at recent state championships.

Superintendent Joel R. Carr noted, "Al has a special way and a special relationship with his students. He encouraged them to attend school; is understanding if they have some difficulties, and allows them to start over the next marking period, if necessary."

Carr gives Wilkerson a lot of the credit for the success of CHS.

"Community High's commencement ceremonies are now as large as Romulus High School's programs," he said. "Our field house is full for both events, and the families and friends of the Community High and Adult Education graduates are particularly enthusiastic and generously supportive.

"Al has done an outstanding job with CHS and our alternative education program," Carr concluded.

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# School Supplies Donated by **Barrington Residents, Staff**



Jeff Legg (left), special education teacher at Barth Elementary, recently accepted several boxes of school supplies that were donated for needy students by Barrington Apartments residents like Tiffany Maldonato and office manager John Treganowan. Legg's students will deliver the supplies to families at each Romulus school as part of a unit on the importance of giving to others. Treganowan was really impressed with the donations received from both his employees and the residents. "One flight attendant came in with many boxes of pens, pencils, erasers, and rulers, and others gave generously, as well," he noted. Maldonato added, "I think that children are wonderful, and I look forward to doing anything I can to help them with their school preparations and lessons.'

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#### Council To Choose Miller's Replacement

continued from page 1

nation from Romulus City Council. Yours was a different voice; a voice of the people which is always necessary in the grand scheme of things. ... However, I applaud you for your courage to resign from something that you felt did not fit. Based on the date of your letter, it was not something you did in haste, but something you did after much thought and soul searching."

In accordance with the Romulus City Charter, Council now faces the task of choosing a replacement for Miller. Council has 45 days from the date of Miller's resignation to fill the vacancy.

Although the Charter does not require the Council to use any particular method for choosing a new member, at least one councilman believes that a precedent has already been established.

"Years ago, when Mayor Lambert was a city councilman, he resigned his position to join the Romulus Police Department," said Wadsworth, who was also a council member at the time. "The Council chose [Fred] "Junior" Block to fill the seat because he came in eighth in the previous election.

"In the 2001 election, Council candidate Michael Wojtylko finished eighth in the voting," Wadsworth continued. "I think that choosing him to fill Mr. Miller's seat would be the fair, impartial, nonpolitical thing to do.

"If he's not interested," he added, "we should continue down the list [of candidates from the 2001 election] until we find someone who is.'

Wojtylko has already indicated that he will accept the Council's appointment, if offered.

"I am most definitely interested in being considered to fill the vacancy," he told The Romulus News. "Whether I receive the appointment or not, I intend to run for council in the 2005 election."

Despite Wadsworth's statements, not everyone believes that the Council should feel compelled to choose Wojtylko as Miller's replacement.

"I think that Don Morris is the most sensible choice," said one resident. "He has the advantage of being a former councilman who already knows the ropes, and his extensive experience as a local businessman and school district administrator would be valuable assets, as well."

Morris came in tenth in the 2001 election, just three votes behind ninthplace finisher Wandra Raspberry.

Barry Baumann - another former Romulus city councilman favored by some residents due to his previous experience - finished eleventh, followed by Steven Lewkowicz and Christopher Walock. 🗅

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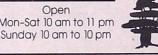


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## New Students Register at RMS



Parent Tracy Davis (left) and her daughter Brittney (right) were all smiles as they registered Brittney for classes at Romulus Middle School. Also pictured are (from left) new student Mark Landry, counseling office secretary Linda Youtsey, and Davis's niece, Alysia Glasgow.

# **University of Akron Donates** \$500 to RHS for DARE Help

Four officials from the University of Akron recently visited Romulus High School to present principal Dan Hurst with a check for \$500. The money was a thank-you gift for helping the university conduct a nationwide review of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program.

"Our nationwide program involves 84 schools - half in the experimental group, and half in the control group," explained DARE program coordinator Dave Stanifer. "Romulus High School is in the control group, which means that the RHS students are receiving the traditional DARE program instruction."

Coordinator Stanifer added that RHS students reported excellent results on the voluntary surveys they completed last year.

"Romulus students are far above the national DARE averages, and are responding very favorably to the traditional DARE program," he concluded.

Principal Hurst was proud of his students' survey results, and stressed the positive nature of this RHS-University of Akron cooperative program.

"You are always welcome at Romulus High School, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future," he told Stanifer and additional university representatives Joseph Williams, Nancy Perri, and Nancy LeBeau.

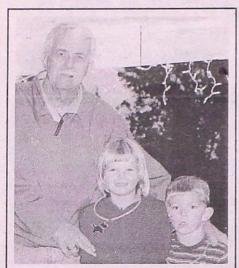
Hurst noted that students and their parents are initially contacted about their willingness to complete the program's anonymous survey, which contains questions about substance abuse. The survey results help the Akron officials document the effectiveness of both the traditional and new DARE instructional

Only those students who agree to take the survey and who have parental permission fill out the questionnaire.



Romulus High School principal Dan Hurst (center) received a \$500 check from University of Akron officials (from left) Joseph Williams, Dave Stanifer, Nanci Perri, and Nancy LeBeau in appreciation of the school's participation in a nationwide DARE survey.

# Record Crowds Attend City's Annual Pumpkin Festival



A second annual Bingo organized by Councilman Bill Wadsworth (pictured here with grandchildren Sarah and Andrew at the Parade of Lights) raised nearly \$2,300 toward a new animal shelter.

The eighth annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival, held the weekend of September 17–19, drew record crowds for some good, old-fashioned fun.

Thousands of onlookers came out Friday evening to watch the festival's kickoff event - the sixth annual Parade of Lights, sponsored by the Romulus Rotary Club. The crowd "ooh-ed" and "ahh-ed" as brilliantly lit floats and vehicles made their way from City Hall through the downtown area. Afterward, 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley, chairman of the Parade of Lights Committee, presented plagues to Outdoor Experts, the Romulus Flyers, and Al Petry Bicycles for their first-place entries in the "motorized-commercial," "motorized-noncommercial," and "nonmotorized" divisions, respectively.

The remainder of the weekend was just as enjoyable, as attendees took in the sights and sounds of the annual street fair, which featured live entertainment, a car show, historical programs, craft vendors, rollerblade hockey and basketball tournaments, youth games/activities, a used-book sale, educational exhibits, and plenty of delicious food.

One of the most popular offerings was the second annual Bingo! benefit for the Romulus Animal Shelter. The event, organized by City Councilman Bill Wadsworth, raised \$2,298.38.

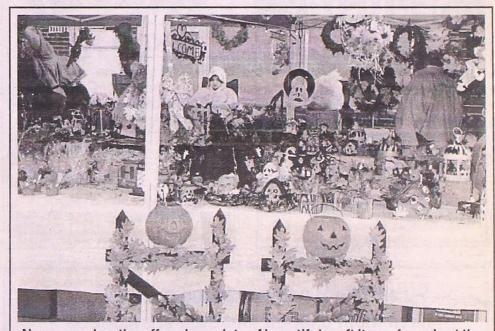
There was plenty of friendly competition, too, as people of all ages took part in contests for everything from pie baking to pie eating. (A complete list of winners will appear in our October 8 issue.)

The event's success was largely due to the hard work of the Festival Committee. Co-chairpersons Maria Lambert, Joanne Whaley, and Laurie Berlinn were ably assisted by secretary Linda Collier, treasurer Debra Hoffman, entertainment coordinator Ellen Craig-Bragg, games coordinator Kathy Lindroth, vendor coordinator Rosalie Berlinn, and members Steve Adams, Julie Albert, Julie Allison, Carole Bales, Herb Buckley, Helen Carol, Lynn Conway, Cathy Freitag, Diane Hazen, William Kren, Betsey Krampitz, Alan R. Lambert, John Leacher, Cyndi Lyon, Linda Norman, Brian A. Oakley, Rick Perry, Jean Pressler, Robert Pressler, Sharon Raftary, Hubert Staten, Kathleen Trent, Cliff West, Arthur Willis, Julie Wojtylko, Kevin Wojtylko, and Robert Youtsey.

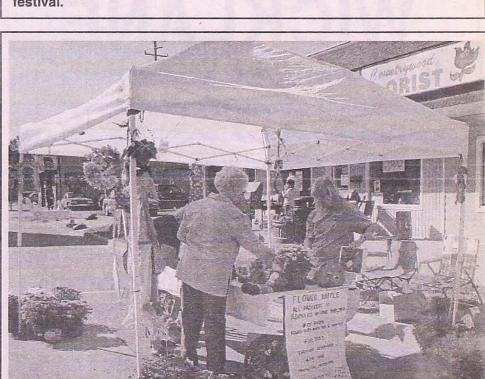
Thanks, also to the following people for judging festival events: Julie Albert, Carole Bales, Ray Basham, Ken Berlinn, Laurie Berlinn, Cheryl Blanton, Chuck Blanton, Bill Brown, Carol Brown, Herb Buckley, Kim Dashier, Lois Douglas, Genevieve Dugan, Debbie Dunn, Jerry Frayer, Alice Gilbert, Dave Glaab, Sharon Gumer, Ray Guzall, John Hadyniak, Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Diane Hopson, Kristin Irwin, Pam Kersey, Sue Kren, William Kren, Myra Kreyger, Melissa Kusibab, Kathy Lindroth, Sarah Lindroth, Alex McCraight, Barb McMann, Linda McNeil, Earl Michling, Christine Miller, Suzanne Moreno, Don Morris, Ron Morrow, Linda Norman, Dave Paul, Nancy Paul, Mike Prybyla, Lauren Romak, Carmen Rossi, Dorothy Stillwagon, Crystal Summers, Marianna Tallent, Sharon Walker, Jean Watson, Ron Watson, and Eva Webb. Q



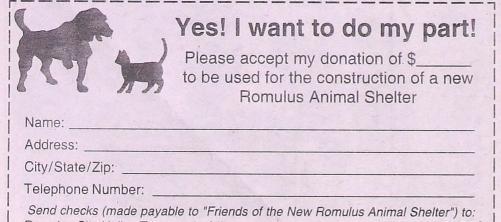
Providing live musical entertainment were a number of bands, including Groove: Essential (pictured) as well as local favorites Channel Six and Pre Science Illusion (featuring Mayor Alan Lambert).



Numerous booths offered a variety of beautiful craft items for sale at the festival.



Other events that benefited the Friends of the Romulus Animal Shelter Fund included Countrywood Florist's flower sale (pictured) and the Cruisin' Car Show.



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Donations are tax deductible.

Donors of \$500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.

Donors of \$25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

# Parade of Lights



As the kickoff event for the annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival, the Parade of Lights featured oodles of orange orbs!



A spirited performance by Romulus High School's Marching Eagles was one of the highlights of the parade.



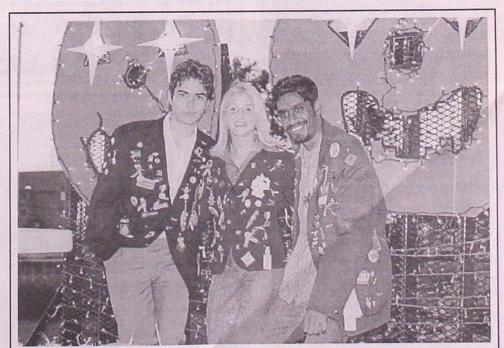
The Romulus Senior Center's colorful float featured the young and the young at heart.



Cyril Bird of Bird's Big Pumpkins in Romulus had one of the most eyecatching entries.



This brightly-lit truck, which was entered by Outdoor Experts of Romulus, won first-place honors in the "commercial – motorized" division of the Parade of Lights.



Friendly faces on the Rotary Club's float included 3 of 20 foreign exchange students sponsored by regional clubs: (from left) Daniel Aguilar of Mexico, Julia Hotz of Germany, and Cuam Kaloo of South Africa.

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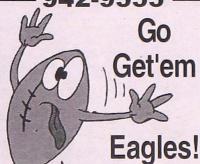
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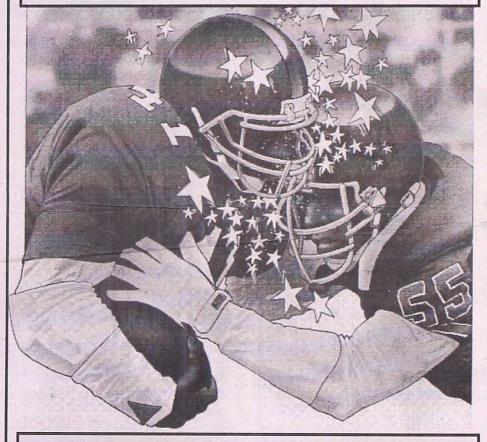
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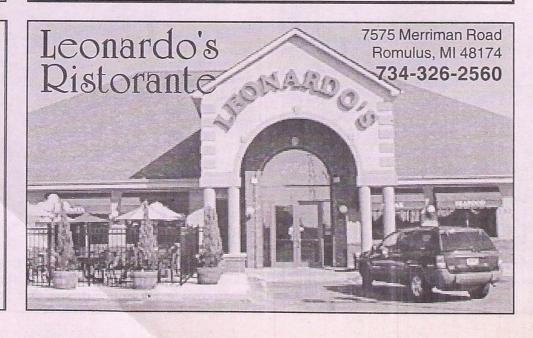
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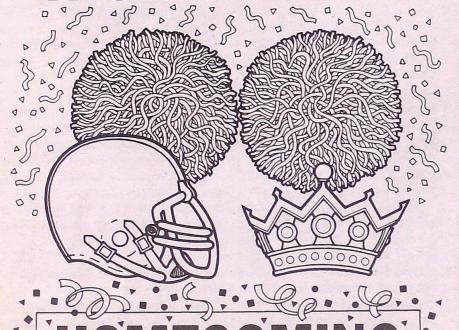
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# ROMULUS HIGH SCHOOL



2004

# Friday, October 1st

# Homecoming Parade: 5 p.m.

(From City Hall, the parade will progress from Bibbins to Gabriel, to Goddard, to Neville, to Ozga, to Romulus Middle School.)

# Homecoming Game: 7 p.m.

Edsel Ford High School vs. Romulus at Romulus Middle School (Wick Road at Ozga • Romulus, MI)

# Good Luck, Eagles!

from the Romulus Community Schools
Board of Education and Staff



# **RHS Gears Up for Homecoming**

Preparations for Romulus High School's Homecoming Week are already well underway, according to Student Government advisor Jason Kahler.

The celebration received its official kickoff on Thursday, September 23, when seniors voted for members of the Homecoming Court, and underclassmen voted for their own Prince and Princess. Results of the elections will be announced on Friday, September 24.

Balloting for King and Queen – open to students from all classes – will be held on Thursday, September 30. Results will be announced during the half-time period of the Homecoming Game against Dearborn's Edsel Ford High School on Friday, October 1.

Special activities for Spirit Week (September 27–30) will include the everpopular dress-up days:

- Monday: Pajamas Day
- Tuesday: Sports Team Day
- Wednesday: Bum Day
- Thursday: Glitz & Glamor Day (in keeping with this year's "Hollywood" theme)
- Friday: Maroon-and-White Day

The annual Pep Rally, to be held the day of the game, will feature tug-of-war, human pyramid, obstacle course, and fight song competitions, as each class battles for points to win the coveted Spirit Jug.

The community's participation in this year's festivities will begin with the Homecoming Parade, set for Friday, October 1. Grand Marshal will be Jesse Meriweather, whose 34-year career with the Romulus Community Schools included 12 years as the district's director of athletics before his retirement last June. Under Meriweather's leadership, Romulus Eagles teams won a total of 23 Mega League championships, a state championship in boys' track, and a number of state championships in individual and relay events in wrestling and boys' and girls' track.

The Homecoming Parade will depart from the Romulus City Hall parking lot (corner of Wayne and Goddard roads) at 5 p.m., and follow its usual route (Bibbins to Gabriel to Goddard to Neville to Ozga to Wick) to end up at Romulus Middle School's beautiful athletic field in time for the 7 p.m. game.

Winners of the float-building and Spirit Jug competitions will be announced during halftime.

The week's activities will wrap up on Saturday, October 2, with the annual Homecoming Dance, which will be held at Romulus High School from 7 to 10 p.m. Advance tickets (\$15 per person/\$30 per couple) may be purchased at the school until sold out; no tickets will be available at the door.

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# **More RHS Fall Sports**



Romulus High School golf team coach Paul Niedermeyer (left) and assistant coach Karl Wukie (right) have the Eagles off to a 2–2 start for the season. Team members are (from left) Dean Gilbert, William Williams, Todd Modrzynski, Carl Roscoe, Chad Williams, Matt Wagle, Ronnie Brown, and Keith Haynes.



Also off to a good start is the RHS junior varsity tennis team: (from left) Rachel Broom (coach), Rebecca Lewkowicz, Jennifer Logan, Edwina Jackson, Ryan Yoder, Amelia Britz, Katelyn Rogers, Heather Bavol, and Miranda Gorm.



Kathleen Forrest (back), head coach of the RHS varsity tennis team, has led the Lady Eagles to a starting record of 2-0-3. Team members are: (from left) front – Courtney McDougal, Megan Brooks, Kerri Britz, and Stacey Sparks; back – Melissa Brewington, Jessica Dick, Katie Hale, Jennifer Hunter, Jazmine Bennett, Joy Jendritz, and Jennifer Dick.

# Community Calendar

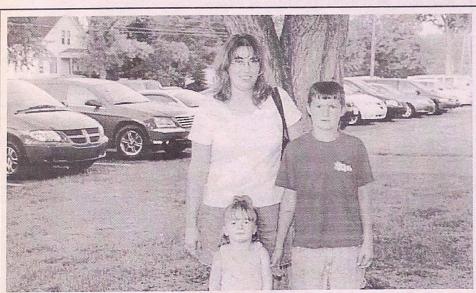
- Get a Library Card Romulus Public Library director Shelley DeLano is urging prospective new patrons to stop in anytime in September, which has been designated "Get Your Library Card" Month. "A library card entitles you to use the Internet and check out books, magazines, books on tape/CD, videos, DVDs, and CDs all at no charge," she explained. "It gives you access to a wealth of valuable information." According to DeLano, the library services both Romulus and Huron Township, and welcomes all people with valid cards from their home libraries. The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall. For more information, call 734-942-7589.
- Sumpter Seniors Host Candidate Forum The Sumpter Township Senior Citizens are holding a Candidates Forum at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 27, in the Sumpter Township Community Center gymnasium. According to volunteer Susette Doyle, who has been helping to publicize the event, all candidates in the local Sumpter/Wayne County area are being invited to participate. The forum will be conducted by noncandidate judges Tina Brooks Green and David M. Parrott of the 34th District Court. Doyle said that both judges have agreed to read questions from the audience to the candidates, and have reserved the right to omit any questions that may appear inflammatory, unfair, or otherwise inappropriate to maintain a level playing field. Refreshments will be provided by the Sumpter Senior Citizens. For more information, call 734-740-6810.
- Local Business Group Hosts "Meet the Candidates" Night The Belleville Business and Professional Women's Club will host a "Meet the Candidates" night on Monday, October 4. The public is invited to attend the event, which will begin at 7:30 p.m.; participants are also welcome to attend a pre-meeting dinner (cost: \$10 per person), which will begin at 6:30 p.m. For reservations and meeting location information, please contact Char Nichols (734-699-3409); for information regarding BPW membership and goals, call president Bobbie Winters (734-487-9638).
- Writers Group Meets The Writers Connection a group designed to bring writers and aspiring writers together meets at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, south of Goddard) from 6 to 8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (next meeting: October 6). Membership is free. For more information about the group, which has been meeting for more than a year, call Maryjo at the library: 734-942-7589.
- Fish Dinners at St. Paul's St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Ellis and Craig streets in New Boston, will be hosting fish dinners from 5 to 7 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. (Next date: October 8.) Everyone is welcome!
- Grief Support Group Meets Crane Funeral Home (36885 Goddard Road, Romulus) offers free grief support group meetings and individual grief counseling to *all* who are in need. Aftercare meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month (next meeting: October 10) from 2 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 734-941-9200.
- Church of God Announces Service Times Romulus Church of God (located at 8770 South Wayne Road) invites the public to attend their weekly services (Sandays at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesdays at 7 p.m.) as well as their children's programs: Kids for Christ (Sundays at 10:30 a.m.) and Kids Praise (Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m.). Call 734-729-7243 for info.
- Nursery Program 'as Openings Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery a nonprofit organization located in St. Paul's Church (corner of Craig and Ellis in New Boston) – is accepting enrollment for its three-/four-year-old classes for the 2004–2005 school year. Call Lynn Emery at 734-782-0876.
- Nursery Offers "Just You & Me" Program Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery – a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory organization located in St. Paul's Church (corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston) – is now accepting enrollment for its "Just You & Me" two-year-olds program, which will be held each Tuesday from 10 to 11:15 a.m. beginning September 28. Cost for the eight-week program is just \$40. Children must be two years of age by December 1, 2004, to be eligible. For more information, or to enroll your child, call Lynn Emery at 734-782-0876.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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# pen House Programs



All six of the Romulus Community Schools' elementaries held Open House programs earlier this month. Diana Druyor brought daughter Hayley and son Ricky to Barth Elementary's program.



Visitors to Cory Elementary's Open House included (from left) Azia Riley and her mother, Denise, as well as Alexus Bass and her grandchildren, Destiny and Wendy Leach.



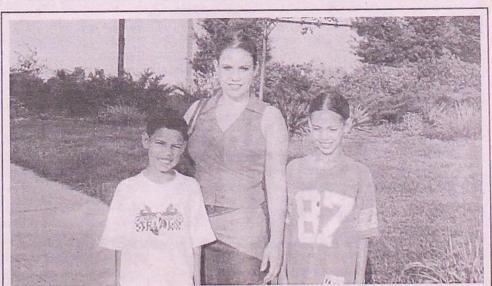
Among Halecreek Elementary's Open House participants were (from left) Linda Bondie with son Nicholas, Karrie McDonald with son Christian and daughter Kylie, and Candy Miller with son David.



Nakisha Hogan brought her children - (from left) Caleb Baker, Nakia Morgan, Nichelle Baker, and Taylor Baker - to the Open House at Merriman Elementary.



Visitors at Romulus Elementary's Open House included (from left) Lenise Williams and her children, Eric and Justin, as well as Mike Williams and his daughter, Rebecca.



Among those who took part in the festivities at Wick Elementary's Open House program were Corina Sweet and her children, Kyle and Kaela Williams.

#### ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

#### **REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 23, 2004**

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, August 23, 2004, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Cheryle Buckley.

Roll call showed members Buckley, April Frayer, Celeste Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Betty Lenossi, Niema White, and Thomas Kuderik present. Administrators present were: Joel R. Carr, Superintendent; William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations; Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources; and Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Buckley.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**8/04/8** Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White to approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

**8/04/9** Moved by White supported by Lenossi that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of August 9, 2004, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

#### Personnel Actions

Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT: Timothy Jager, Physical Education Teachers, Alternative Middle/Community High School, Effective August 30, 2004; and Alanna Roach, Special Education Teacher, Romulus Middle School, Effective August 30, 2004.

8/04/10 Moved by Lenossi supported by Frayer to accept the employment of personnel as submitted. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

FYI – RETIREMENT: Alvin Dupree, Night Leader, Romulus Middle School, Effective August 31, 2004; and Allie Mae Jackson, Guidance Counselor, Romulus High School, Effective June 18, 2004.

FYI - RESIGNATION: Julie Nefsey, Child Care Giver/Latchkey, Burton Center, Effective August 20, 2004.

#### Bills for Payment

**8/04/11** Moved by White supported by Frayer to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### Responsibility System

Mr. Dan Hurst, Mr. Doug Hoffman, Ms. Kellie Knight, Mr. Chuck Hughes, Ms. Latoya Shackelford, and Ms. Rhonda McAllister appeared before the Board of Education with a video presentation on The Responsibility System to be implemented in the 2004–2005 school year for students.

#### Award of Cafeteria Bid

**8/04/12** Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Lenossi to approve Chartwells School Dining for their low bid of \$1.1325 per meal for the food service management contract for the 2004–2005 school year. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### St. Anthony Academy/St. Stephen's School Shared Time

**8/04/13** Moved by Lenossi supported by Mientkiewicz to provide shared time educational services to students attending St. Anthony's Academy and St. Stephen's School, and authorize the superintendent to enter into an agreement with the Van Buren and New Boston school districts and with St. Anthony Academy and St. Stephen's School. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### Communications and Expressions from the Public

Ms. Linda Redmond addressed the Board of Education relative to the new cafeteria company. She also asked about the number of students expected to be enrolled at Community High.

#### Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following Items of Interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) RESA communication – PA 227; 2) Michigan Department of Education communication; 3) MASB communication; and 4) Capitol Report.

#### QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ken Mientkiewicz asked questions regarding the new law (PA 227) about employees' children attending our school district. Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, addressed concerns.

Mrs. Cheryle Buckley reminded Board members that, at the next meeting, members would be back to wearing business attire.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

8/04/14 Moved by White supported by Frayer to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll call vote – Ayes: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Buckley, Frayer, and Roscoe. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.

**8/04/15** Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Kuderik to convene into Regular Session. Roll call vote – Ayes: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Buckley, Frayer, and Roscoe. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Regular Session at 8:17 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

**8/04/16** Moved by Lenossi supported by White to adjourn. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Celeste Roscoe, Secretary Romulus Board of Education

#### ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

#### SPECIAL MEETING, AUGUST 31, 2004

The Special Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Tuesday, August 31, 2004, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Cheryle Buckley.

Roll call showed members Buckley, April Frayer, Celeste Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Betty Lenossi, Niema White, and Thomas Kuderik present. Administrators present were: Joel R. Carr, Superintendent; William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations; Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources; and Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Buckley.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

8/04/17 Moved by Lenossi supported by White to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

8/04/18 Moved by Lenossi supported by White to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll call vote – Ayes: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Buckley, Frayer, and Roscoe. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

**8/04/19** Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White to convene into Regular Session. Roll call vote – Ayes: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Buckley, Frayer, and Roscoe. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Regular Session at 7:12 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

8/04/20 Moved by White supported by Lenossi to adjourn. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion arried.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Celeste Roscoe, Secretary Romulus Board of Education

#### **ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHEDULING REGULAR ELECTION

The Board of Education of the Romulus Community Schools will hold a public hearing on the issue of whether to schedule the school district's regular election for the office of school board member at other than the odd-year general election.

The hearing will be held on Monday, September 27, 2004, at 6:15 p.m. in the district's administrative offices, located at 36540 Grant Road in Romulus.

The Board of Education is proposing to select the annual May regular election date as the date to hold the school district's regular election. If the May election date is approved by the Board of Education, the school district's regular election will be held annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May.

If the proposed resolution on the May election date is not approved, the school district's regular election will be held at the odd-year general election in November.

Any person with a disability who needs accommodation for participation in this hearing should contact Mrs. Carole Bales (734-532-1610) to request assistance.

This notice is published by:

Romulus Community Schools 36540 Grant Road Romulus, Michigan 48174 734-532-1600

Celeste Roscoe Secretary Romulus Board of Education

Publish: September 24, 2004

# Romulus Wesleyan Church Engaged in MOB Activities

By Stuart Kerr, member

It has been revealed that the 150year-old Romulus Wesleyan Church – notorious for once being a station in the Underground Railroad – has begun MOB activities. The Mass of Believers is the new name for the church's youth group.

A new Revolution Service, the brainchild of youth pastor Ken Beesley, features an informal setting, a café, a video game room, and a Christian rock band called Pierced. The church, located at Five Points, opens its doors at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday nights; the service is from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Afterward, the church remains open until 10 p.m. for additional fellowship.

The purpose of the new service is to reach the youth of Romulus and surrounding communities "where they are," according to Beesley. To the youth of today, church is often seen as boring, filled with archaic rules and traditions, and hostile to their fashion, culture, and individuality. Without compromising the basic facts of Christian faith, the Revolution Service aims to show that Christianity is vibrant and exciting, an adventure, not a set of rules designed to put kids into little boxes.

"Having the church open from 6:30 to 10 p.m. gives the kids a place to hang out in a safe environment," said Beesley, 22. "There really isn't any place in town for kids right now, and too many of them end up partying. The Revolution Service will be a positive alternative to that."

The band Pierced, from New Beginnings Church in Wayne, performs Christian rock and roll in the main sanctuary area before the sermon, while downstairs is a café with soft drinks, cappuccino, and snacks. Upstairs, there is a large room with three TVs and various video games. The room is furnished with a dozen bean bag chairs. Adult members of the church will be in attendance for supervision, and to offer counseling, prayer, and a friendly smile.

According to senior pastor Steve Adams, the church decided about four years ago to start a youth outreach program, and hired Beesley as youth pastor two years ago to put the plans into action. The church also purchased a house on Huron River Drive, just around the corner from the church, and converted the garage into a youth meeting hall known simply as The Garage.

"We stepped out in faith, and we're seeing the results now," said Adams. "We've explained to the congregation that unchurched kids will be coming in. Some kids with tattoos and piercings are going to walk in the front door, and it's our job to love them and not judge them. I'm happy to say our members are very supportive of this new service."

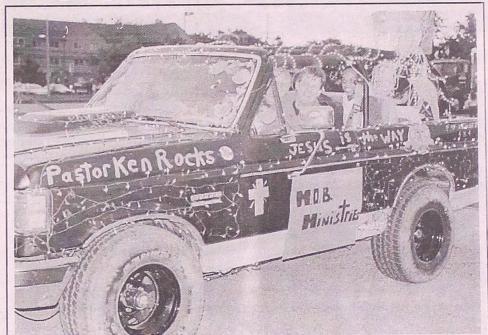
The Revolution Service continues a tradition of youth-oriented activities at Romulus Wesleyan. Three years ago, Pastor Adams and member Gary Ford started J-Splat, a paint-ball outreach for kids and teens. The recent Romulus Pumpkin Festival included a roller hockey tournament, which is sponsored and managed by the church every year. Pastors Adams and Beesley, as well as the church body in general, have made it a priority to reach out to high-school and college-age youth.

Since joining the Romulus Wesleyan Church, Beesley has implemented several small group programs for junior-high boys, junior-high girls, senior-high boys, and senior-high girls. Beesley's wife Sarah and several other women of the church lead the girls' groups. The Revolution Service brings these groups into the main church building. During "The Price Is Right" – the program's first service, held on August 21 – members of the audience guessed the price of a music CD and a bag of candy. The message focused on the price that Christ has already paid for each of us.

The Revolution Service will be a weekly event at the church.

The Romulus Wesleyan Church is located at 37300 Goddard Road. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m.; worship service follows at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday is Family Night, with Kids Club and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m.

For more information, please call 734-941-1511.  $\square$ 



The Romulus Wesleyan Church's MOB group took part in the annual Pumpkin Festival on September 17.

# **Check It Out!**

#### The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown

Reviewed by Jan Conrad

There are few books that have caught the attention of the public as much as *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. On best-sellers lists for over 18 months, *The Da Vinci Code* has become a cultural phenomenon. The book has given rise to a resurged interest in the private life of Jesus, his relationship with Mary Magdalene, early Christian history, secret societies, and the meaning of various symbols and icons.

Unfortunately, not all is well in the novel. Despite its intriguing thesis and numerous thought-provoking statements, readers must overlook many holes in the plot.

For example, the Louvre's curator is shot in the stomach by a man who has devoted a great deal of time and effort to hunt him down, gain his secret, and then destroy him. Yet, when the magazine of the killer's weapon is empty after a first shot, the killer doesn't bother to reload and finish off his victim. Seems like a handy-dandy way to allow the curator to set things in motion, but certainly makes for sloppy behavior on the part of the otherwise meticulous killer.

And the victim, Jacques Sauniere, seems to possess an amazing level of medical expertise – enough to deduce that a stomach wound will result in a slow seepage of stomach acid into the chest cavity, producing death in precisely 15 minutes. This gives him time to run around the museum, setting up an elaborate display that will convey a message to his granddaughter, whom

he hasn't even seen in 10 years. But I wonder if all that running around, shucking off clothing, and lifting heavy paintings wouldn't have hastened the movement of stomach acid and the quickness of death. Not to mention the presence of shock and pain, and their effects on Sauniere's ability to think clearly and quickly enough to work out his plan. I also have serious doubts about a dying man's ability to arrange his body in a precise formation, and then keep it there while he died a painful death.

But, even if a reader could swallow such unrealistic plot developments, the story remains poorly written. Quite often throughout the story, I thought I was back in college, listening to a semi-interesting lecture by a professor who had good ideas, but lost them in the drone of his own voice. Both of the main characters, Robert Langdon and Sophie Neveu, were guilty of this. They went on and on about historical data which both of them, given their backgrounds, should have already known. It was a clumsy device to give readers background information in a complicated plot.

These are only a few of the problems encountered in the novel. Despite that, it is an interesting yarn that can keep the reader's attention. If you can stomach the sloppy writing, it is probably worth reading, just to know what the hubbub is about.

Both print and audio versions of *The Da Vinci Code* are available at the Romulus Public Library. For more information, call 734-942-7589.  $\square$ 

# Romulus Adolescent Health Center



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# Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-955-4120.) **Red Hat Society** 

The Romulus Senior Center is now an official member of Red Hat Society Chapter #40741. For more information, or to join, call the Center or e-mail romulusredhatsociety@yahoo.com.

The Romulus Senior Center will be showing the classic comedy African Screams (starring Abbott and Costello) on Friday, September 24, and Francis the Talking Mule (starring Donald O'Connor) on Friday, October 1. Both shows begin at 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

#### Senior-citizen Clubs

Local senior citizens looking to make new friends are invited to join one or both of the clubs that meet at the Romulus Senior Center on a regular basis.

Club #1, which gets together each Tuesday at 11 a.m., holds potlucks, "does lunch" at area restaurants, hosts parties, plays bingo and other games, and schedules seasonal outings.

The Romulus Senior Social Club, a relatively new group that's continuing to grow, meets at 2 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. Yearly dues of \$5 help cover costs related to special trips, parties, and other events.

For more information about either group, call the Senior Center.

#### Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Club One (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- "game day" (Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.). Call the Center for more information.

#### Walk for Your Health

Ride the Senior Center's van to Wayne County Community College's Western Campus each Monday and Wednesday at 2 p.m. for an hour of safe, indoor walking at your own pace. Sign up at the Center to reserve your seat.

The Senior Center strongly urges anyone considering a change in his/her exercise program to consult a doctor beforehand.

The Senior Center's new Chair Yoga program meets each Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$5 per session.

Again, the Senior Center strongly urges anyone considering a change in his/her exercise program to consult a doctor beforehand.

For more information, please call Belinda at 734-942-3029.



Residents of Romulus Tower senior-citizen apartments took part in the recent Parade of Lights, which kicked off the annual Romulus Pumpkin Festival on September 17.

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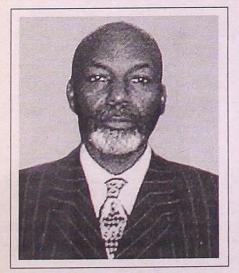
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Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study: 6:00 pm

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Marriage Ministry – 3rd Thursday: 7:00 pm
Ladies Ministry – 1st Friday: 7:00 pm
Youth Ministry – 2nd Saturday: 2:00 pm

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# Wedding Bells

#### Aaron and Amy (Wallen) Hughes

Congratulations to Aaron and Amy (Wallen) Hughes, who were married on July 24, 2004. The couple exchanged their vows in a beautiful outdoor wedding held in the groom's parents' backyard.

Standing up with Aaron were his groomsmen, Ryan Medina and Steve Smith. Amy was attended by bridesmaids Kanisha Wallen and Beth Gulliver.

A garden reception immediately followed the ceremony.

Aaron is the son of Henry and Susanne Hughes of Romulus, Michigan. Amy's parents are Ralph and Susan Wallen, also of Romulus.



**Amy and Aaron Hughes** 

## Arnold and Stephanie (Durtka) Winters



The Winters wedding party

Jeff and Dana Durtka of Romulus are proud to announce the marriage of their daughter, Stephanie Durtka, to Arnold Winters, the son of Arnold Winters of Westland and Claudette Ward of Flat Rock, on August 28, 2004.

Standing up with Arnold were best man Bryant Hughes and groomsmen Ken Winters and Rob Switzer. Stephanie was attended by maid of honor Heidi Durtka and bridesmaids Dawn Stebleton and Amanda Monczunski.

# **Obituary**

#### Richard L. Chandler

Richard L. Chandler of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, September 8, 2004, at the age of 73.

The native of Jones, Alabama, was born on Saturday, May 23, 1931.

Richard, a U.S. Army veteran who proudly served his country during the Korean Conflict, worked at Ford Motor Company's Ypsilanti plant for 38 years. He was a member of United Auto Workers Local 898 as well as Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3016 and the American Legion. A family man and giving person, he enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, cutting wood, and working on cars.

Surviving Richard are his wife of 54 years, Dorothy Marie (Short) Chandler; 5 children, Jimmie Joe Chandler (Detroit, MI), Carolyn (Gary) Clemmons (Belleville, MI), Linda Chandler (Ypsilanti, MI),

Johnny Lee (Linda) Chandler (Belleville), and Ann (Sam) Griffith (Warren, IN); 3 siblings, John Thomas (Martha) Chandler, Dorothy Terrell, and Raybon (Joyce) Chandler (all of Alabama); 19 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces.

Among those who predeceased him were his parents, John Thomas and Flossie Lovelady (Simms) Chandler; a son, Roger "Mad Dog" Chandler (August 21, 2004); 6 siblings; and a great-grand-daughter, Courtney Kay Jackson (September 3, 1998).

A funeral service was held Monday, September 13, at David C. Brown Funeral Home (Belleville), with Pastor Paul D. Bostwick (Maranatha Baptist Church, Belleville) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

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